

GRANITE STATE LIBRARIES



NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY

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FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN...The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on what has been accomplished and to plan for the future. This year's big project was to see if we could be helpful to libraries by offering downloadable audio books to library patrons.

In the spring of 06 the State Library signed a contract with OverDrive to provide services and content to New Hampshire libraries. There were twenty libraries in that first group that wanted to be part of the consortium. Those twenty libraries went live in September; as of December 31 we had 75 libraries, all part of the downloadable audio book consortium serving 750,000 New Hampshire residents. Credit for making this project work goes to Diana Degen and Bobbi Slossar who learned as much as they could about what worked and what didn't to help libraries get connected. The collaboration of the State Library and the more than 75 public libraries has made this program possible.

As I have said many times in many places the State Library staff is an outstanding group of library professionals. They work hard every day to improve library services to New Hampshire residents. This year three new librarians were added: Linda Kent, Technical Services, Bobbi Slossar, our technology consultant and Amber Cushing, in our reference department. New to the Circulation Department is Victoria Weatherbee. Many of our staff have been with the State Library for a long time, it is this mix of seasoned, experienced, knowledgeable librarians and new people with fresh ideas that make the State Library a vital innovated place to work.

Plans for the next year include developing a digital center at the State Library to establish protocols and standards for digitizing important materials. We plan to establish a program to assist libraries needing help with digitizing import local documents as well.

We are currently working with stake holders on a new automation system that will provide the range of services and features needed to help New Hampshire libraries serve their patrons.

We at the state library wish all of you a happy, healthy an prosperous New Year.

-Michael York, State Librarian

STATE LIBRARY EVALUATES ITS 5-YEAR USE OF FEDERAL LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) FUNDS

Much appreciation and gratitude is extended to all those who helped participate in the evaluation of New Hampshire's LSTA [2002-2007] program which took place during the fall of 2006. Consultants from Himmel & Wilson were hired to conduct focus groups, telephone interviews and to design a web survey tool to analyze the various data and feedback from New Hampshire's public libraries on programs and services funded through LSTA.

Five focus group discussions were held in locations around the state between October 3rd and October 5th. A total of seventeen people participated in the sessions, which were held in Bedford, Keene, Dover, Conway, and Lancaster. Fifteen additional librarians from various libraries across the state also gave their time to the consultants in telephone interviews. As a final evaluation tool, the consultant firm created an online survey to gather input concerning this federal grant program which we administer. The response to the online survey was overwhelmingly immediate and with high numbers of submission within the first hours of launching the survey.

Thank you to all those who offered their helpful input. The evaluation report will be available online when it has been accepted by the State Librarian and the State Library Advisory Council. The report will help guide the goals and objectives for the State Library's next five-year LSTA plan which is due to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in March 2007.

-Michael York, State Librarian

-Janet Eklund, Administrator of Library Operations

PSU's CASEY BISSON WINS MELLON AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE SEARCH SOFTWARE FOR LIBRARIES

Making Libraries Relevant in an Internet-Based Society

by Christopher Williams
PSU Public Relations Director

You can't trip over what's not there. Every day millions of Internet users search online for information about millions of topics. And none of their search results include resources from the countless libraries around the world - until now.

Casey Bisson, information architect for Plymouth State University's Lamson Library, has received the prestigious Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration for his ground-breaking software application known as WPopac. The WPopac software will revolutionize the online search process by allowing titles and descriptions of library holdings to be found on the Internet.

The award was presented at a ceremony hosted by the Mellon Foundation on Monday, December 4th at the fall meeting of the Coalition for Networked Information, in Washington, D.C., Bisson's project was selected as one of only 10 recipients out of several hundred nominees for 2006, the first year the MATC awards have been granted. The decision was made by an all-star panel that included Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web, and Mitchell Baker, CEO of the Mozilla Foundation.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supports the thoughtful application of information technology to a wide range of scholarly purposes, including developing digital technologies to enhance research, teaching, and distance learning, and new technical approaches to archiving text and multimedia materials.

Christopher Mackie, program officer for the Mellon Foundation's Research in Information Technology section, was pleased with how well WPopac fits the foundation's criteria.

"The award committee was particularly excited by the way WPopac makes library patrons move active participants in their library experience," Mackie said. "By allowing patrons to add information to library records online, the software allows the community to work together to make their library resources more informative and more valuable. When you couple this with the reduced costs of access that WPopac permits, and the enthusiasm with which it has been received by librarians and patrons alike, the committee judged the project to have a truly revolutionary potential."

"For years we've been talking about the digital divide in terms of access, and we've been working hard to put computers and networks into every school and library," Bisson said. "But those same libraries, and their communities, are invisible to people online. If libraries are to be more than study halls in the Internet age, if they are to continue their role as centers of knowledge in every community, they need to be findable and available online. They need the tools to represent their collections, their services, and the unique history of their communities online. That's what WPopac does."

Other universities receiving MATC awards this year include the University of Washington, Yale, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the University of British Columbia.

According to PSU President Sara Jayne Steen, Bisson's work is an example of exceptional effort and entrepreneurial spirit.

"Casey recognized a need for broader access to the myriad of resources contained in our libraries and developed a unique and creative solution designed to re-engage users of today's web-based technologies," Steen said. "We are proud of the Mellon Organization's recognition of the university and Casey's innovation and initiative."

Links to more information:

Lamson Library:	plymouth.edu/library/
WPopac for Lamson Library's collection:	plymouth.edu/library/opac/
WPopac Web log:	wpopac.blogs.pymouth.edu/
NH Public Radio's interview with Casey Bisson from December 5, 2006:	www.nhpr.org/node/11927

For more information, contact Christopher Williams, PSU Public Relations Director, (603) 535-2476, or cwilliams@plymouth.edu.

N.H. BLIND ORGANIZATION OFFERS TWO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

submitted by
NFB-NH [nfbfnh@yahoo.com]

The National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire (NFB-NH) is taking applications for its two annual scholarships which is open to legally blind (visually impaired) and totally blind residents of New Hampshire.

The Theresa Herron Memorial Scholarship (in the amount of \$500) is awarded annually to an incoming or current high school student who is legally blind (visually impaired or totally blind). The scholarship can be used to help the student buy some low-tech or high-tech aid not covered by Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) such as; buy extra reading time, take part in a summer educational or recreational project, or save for college. The student can be an older person (over 16) returning to complete a high school education or attending a secondary vocational school. The Theresa Herron Memorial Scholarship is named for Mrs. Theresa Herron who was legally blind and a former student of the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Mass. She was dedicated to always helping others who were legally blind, especially young persons. Always assisting them towards higher education so they might become self-supporting and independent. She was a member of the N.H. Governor's Commission on Problems for the Disabled (later named Governor's Commission on Disability). She gave much volunteer time to the N.H. State Library Program for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She served as State President of the NFB-NH from 1982 to 1988.

The Floyd Callward Memorial Scholarship (in the amount of \$1,000) is awarded annually to a college student who is legally blind or totally blind. The scholarship applicant can be attending college straight from high school, returning to college at a later age, graduate or professional school, or in post-secondary vocational training. The Floyd Callward Memorial Scholarship is given through the generosity of the late Floyd Callward. Mr. Floyd Callward was a member of the NFB-NH in the late 1950's and the early 1960's and spent his later years of life in Connecticut.

Scholarship applications are available through the NFB-NH via postal mail and electronic mail (e-mail). Scholarship Award recipients will be announced at the annual NFB-NH State Convention held each Mid-Autumn (October-November). If chosen, the scholarship recipient will be required to attend the entire NFB-NH annual weekend state convention at the NHB-NH's expense.

To request a scholarship application, write to Mr. Louis Gosselin, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Suite 120, 195 McGregor Street, Manchester, N.H. 03103 or call (603) 669-8733 or e-mail lgosselin@ed.state.nh.us.

In addition, the National Federation of the Blind National Office at 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, Maryland offers 25 annual scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Seven college students from New Hampshire have been awarded National Scholarships in the past years. To request copies of the National NFB Scholarships, please write to N.F.B., 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, MD 21230.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

by Janet Eklund
Administrator of Library Operations
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Eight New Hampshire institutions have received over \$58,000 in funding through the New Hampshire State Library's Conservation (Moose Plate) License Plate Program for the 2006/2007 fiscal year.

Those that were awarded grants are: the City of Claremont (\$10,000), the Town of Madison (\$6,856); the Town of Gilford (\$9,280), the Town of Farmington (\$8,531); the Town of Hancock (\$9,707); the Town of Chichester (\$8,050), the Town of Newport (\$2,900) and the Bedford Public Library, which was awarded \$3,785 for the "Bedford Public Library 1789 Register Preservation Project."

According to the 1903 history of Bedford, there was a circulating library there as early as 1789. The Town has a leather-bound register listing the library's original accessions as well as the names of the 38 residents who were the library's original subscribers. This money will be used to preserve this register as a document of historic significance.

The City of Claremont will use their awarded funds to restore and preserve fourteen unique volumes of historical cemetery books. These books, which in many instances are the only record of New Hampshire's first settlers, contain valuable and irreplaceable information about many of the state's early citizens.

"During this round of funding, the State Library received 13 applications totaling over \$100,000," said Michael York, N.H. State Librarian. "Since its inception in 2003, the State Library has funded 42 grant applications totaling over \$220,000. We look forward to these numbers growing in the future and continuing to award deserving projects and communities."

The next round of grants will be announced in late January 2007. For more information, please visit www.nh.gov/nhsl/moose or contact Janet Eklund, (603) 271-2393 or at jeklund@library.state.nh.us.

Be sure to continue buying, giving and renewing Moose Plates so there will be sufficient funds for future worthwhile projects in New Hampshire. For more information on Moose Plates, please visit www.mooseplate.com.

***STRAIGHT FORWARD* WINS BEST N.H. FILM AWARD**

by Matthew Newton, Film Specialist
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The New Hampshire Film and Television Office is pleased to announce that *Straight Forward*, a feature film produced by and starring Cultural Resources' own Kristen Vermilyea Harbaugh, won Best New Hampshire Film at the Somewhat North of Boston (SNOB) Film Festival in Concord. The festival ran from November 7-11 in multiple venues around the city, including the State Library, which hosted a full schedule of films on Saturday, November 11th. *Straight Forward* was screened as a work-in-progress and is a film noir thriller that takes place in the 1940s. More information on the film may be found at www.straightforwardthemovie.com. Congratulations to Kristen!

N.H. LIBRARIANS' DAY

September 14, 2006

by Cathy Marciniak

Fuller Public Library, Hillsboro

(603) 464-3595 · www.conknet.com/~fullerlibrary

Wet weather had only slightly dampened our spirits as we trekked 'round the capital in the warm drizzle, and waited outside in yet another security line to check our sopping jackets and umbrellas. But all that was forgotten late in the afternoon, when our persistence paid off and we were lead by our tour guide to the visitors' gallery of the United States Senate.

We had already seen many impressive works of art that day, including half a dozen fabulous Native American portraits by George Catlin at the American Indian Museum. However, to the right of the gallery doors we were about to enter hangs a large oil portrait of a stately gray-haired woman I instinctively recognized as the famous Senator from Maine, Margaret Chase Smith. Her glowing expression conveyed honor and integrity, and for the first time that day I had a reassuring feeling that these truly were hallowed halls.

Quietly taking a seat inside the heavy doors, we peered down from the darkened balcony to the Senate floor below, where we watched Barbara Boxer arguing (against her Republican colleagues) in favor of bombproof cargo containers in airplanes. How much smaller and more intimate this space seemed, and certainly much more glittering than my first impression of it. I imagined that old black and white movie *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, where my hero, Jimmy Stewart, playing the part of the naive freshman senator, stood on that same floor, filibustering a bill that corrupt politicians had hoodwinked him into supporting. "Hard-boiled" reporter Jean Arthur leaned over this same railing, passionately pressing him on as he wavered after hours of holding the floor. Well, maybe they were actually on a Hollywood set, and maybe the real decisions aren't made here, but it seemed real then, as it seemed real now, and I couldn't help think that for many of us that thrill is a citizen's highest calling. Too soon the spell was broken as we were whispered that our time was up.

Back home I went online to her library to read more about Senator Smith, and discovered that in 1950, she was the first senator to speak out against Joseph McCarthy's infamous communist-hunt. On that same Senate floor, in a speech called "Declaration of Conscience," she cautioned her colleagues not to "ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism - The right to criticize; The right to hold unpopular beliefs; The right to protest; The right of independent thought."

If you have ever considered making this trip, I strongly encourage you to wait no more. I have been told that each year the focus changes, and with so much to do and see, and the freedom to do as you please, you could go every year and still not see it all. Kudos and thanks to the State Library and to former Congressman Bass and his staff to make this trip possible.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOOK COLUMN

by Donna Gilbreth, Supervisor
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Bell, Irving. PERSISTENT PATRIOT: THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LIFE AND LETTERS OF FRANKLIN PIERCE: THE PRE-PRESIDENTIAL YEARS. New Hampshire Political Library/Pierce Brigade, Concord, N.H. 2005

A biography of New Hampshire's only U.S. President by a former *Concord Monitor* reporter and founder of the Pierce Brigade, a group dedicated to preserving the history and memory of Franklin Pierce.

Blanchette, Michel A. LITTLE CANUCK: THE ADVENTURES OF AN IMMIGRANT BOY FROM QUEBEC. iUniverse, Inc., Lincoln, NE. 2005 \$20.95 ISBN 9780595348206

A memoir by Blanchette, who grew up on a poor farm in Quebec, then emigrated to the United States with his family in the 1960s. The author now lives in New Hampshire.

Childress, Robert. SALLY, DICK & JANE: SKETCHBOOKS. Vol. 1; FUN WHEREVER WE ARE. Publishing Works, Exeter, N.H. 2004 \$14.95 ISBN 1936300200X

Chimerical artist Childress illustrated the Dick and Jane reading primers of our (or at least my) childhood. His daughter, Nancy, a Gilmanton resident and the model for Sally, has gathered several of his sketches for this book.

Clyde, Malin Ely. A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE TO INVENTORYING AND MONITORING WILDLIFE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. UNH Cooperative Extension, Durham, N.H. 2004 \$10.00 ISBN 0971957555

A useful guide to observing and inventorying New Hampshire wildlife.

Cousineau, Michael. SWINGING FOR THE MAJORS. INSIDE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FISHER CATS CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON. Plaidswede Publishing, Concord, N.H. 2005 \$19.95 ISBN 0975521624

Cousineau, a reporter for the Manchester *Union Leader*, has visited all ball parks in the country. In this book he follows the New Hampshire minor league baseball team for one year.

Della Fera, Michaeline. TRADING FACES. Wings ePress, Inc., Richmond, KY. 2005 \$15.95 ISBN 1590886550

A first novel by Hollis resident and *Nashua Telegraph* correspondent Della Fera. A murder mystery about Cecce De Lucca, a private investigator from New Hampshire who becomes involved in solving a murder at a fancy spa in Arizona.

Dickerman, Mike. LINCOLN AND WOODSTOCK NEW HAMPSHIRE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY INTO THE AREA'S COLORFUL PAST. Bondcliff Books, Littleton, N.H. 2005 \$24.95 ISBN 1931271100

Over 300 historic images from the archives of the Upper Pemigewasset Historical Society illustrate life in area logging towns from the late 1800s to the 1950s.

Durham, Diana. TO THE END OF THE NIGHT: A COLLECTION OF POEMS. Northwoods Press, Thomaston, ME. 2004 \$39.95 ISBN 0890023743

Winner of the publisher's 2003 annual competition for poetry collections. The author lives in Portsmouth.

Elliott, David. EVANGELINE MUDD AND THE GREAT MINK ESCAPEDE. Candlewick Press, Cambridge, MA. 2006 \$15.99 ISBN 0763622958

Ten-year-old Evangeline attempts to free a group of minks from Mudd's Marvelous Minks before they become ballet costumes in this charming children's book. The author lives and teaches in New Hampshire.

EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE...WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE TIDE: A POETRY ANTHOLOGY.
Publishing Works, Exeter, N.H. 2005 \$18.00 ISBN 1933002158

An anthology of poems about the town of Exeter by New Hampshire poets, with illustrations of the town.
Published by the Exeter Public Library.

METACOMET-MONADNOCK TRAIL GUIDE Trails Committee of the Berkshire Chapter, AMC, Amherst,
MA. 2005 (10th ed.) \$14.95 ISBN 1889787108

A trail guide with maps for the 114 mile long footpath stretching from western Massachusetts to the Monadnock region of New Hampshire.

Nathan, Evelyn. TRAIN TO SKAVILLE. Publishing Works, Exeter, N.H. 2005 \$15.00
ISBN 097448038X

A collection of poetry and photography about Jamaica. The author, a native of Massachusetts, lived in Jamaica for several years. She now lives in Kingston and runs an antique shop.

Pelletier, Marsha. ARRIVING AT THE CROSSROADS. Peter E. Randall Publisher, Portsmouth, N.H. 2003
\$17.95 ISBN 1931807191

Pelletier, of Dover, is a poet, teacher, and former New Hampshire legislator. This is a recent collection of her poems.

Quinn, Moe. HIS MAJESTY'S FOURTH. PublishAmerica, Baltimore, MD. 2006 \$16.95
ISBN 1413794645

A historical romance set at Fort No. 4 in Charlestown during the French and Indian War. This is a first novel for Claremont resident Norman Moquin, who is donating proceeds to curing cancer.

Romano, Jeffrey. BEST LOOP HIKES: NEW HAMPSHIRE'S WHITE MOUNTAINS TO THE MAINE COAST. The Mountaineers Books, Seattle, WA. 2006 \$16.95 ISBN 0898869854

A guide to 60 hikes in New Hampshire and Maine where hikers do not have to retrace their route upon descending.

Scudder, Brent E. SCUDDER'S WHITE MOUNTAIN VIEWING GUIDE: FIFTY-FOUR NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND MOUNTAIN TOP VIEWING DIAGRAMS. High Top Press, North Sutton, N.H. 2005 (2nd edition) \$18.95 ISBN 0964585634

This books contains precise panoramic diagrams detailing the views in all directions from 54 New Hampshire mountains. Descriptions are included. The author lives in New London.

Starbuck, David R. THE ARCHEOLOGY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE: EXPLORING 10,000 YEARS IN THE GRANITE STATE. University of New Hampshire Press, Durham, N.H. 2006 \$19.95
ISBN 1584655623

An exhaustive guide to the status of archeological research in New Hampshire. The author is an anthropology professor at Plymouth State University.

Stott, Fred. ON AND OFF THE TRAIL. SEVENTY YEARS WITH THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB. AMC, Boston, MA. 2004 \$16.95 ISBN 1929173970

A memoir of a lifetime of hiking, much of it in New Hampshire, beginning with a climb up Mt. Chocorua at age eleven. The author lives in Andover, Massachusetts.

Wetherbee, Fritz. FRITZ WETHERBEE'S NEW HAMPSHIRE. Plaidswede Publishing, Concord, N.H. 2005
\$19.95 ISBN 9780975521656

New Hampshire Wetherbee, of WMUR's *New Hampshire Chronicle* television program, has compiled many strange but true stories of New Hampshire history.

MERCEDES-BENZ COMMERCIAL FILMS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NORTH COUNTRY

by Matthew Newton, Film Specialist
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The New Hampshire Film and Television Office is pleased to report that a national television commercial for Mercedes-Benz was recently filmed in and around the White Mountains Region of the state.

The television spot, showcasing the Mercedes-Benz S-Class vehicle, filmed December 3-4, 2006 along U.S. Route 2 in Randolph and Shelburne, taking full advantage of New Hampshire's beautiful Shelburne White Birches as a backdrop. The commercial also filmed along Route 302 in Crawford Notch State Park near Arethusa Falls. Production was then scheduled to move to a section of Route 113 just over the New Hampshire state line into Maine. The commercial will wrap up filming when the production returns to New York later this week.

While the production brought a primarily New York-based crew to the state, motor homes were rented from Campers Inn of Merrimack, catering for the crew was provided by Chef's Market of North Conway, and the Mountain View Grand Resort in Whitefield housed the production during their stay. In addition, several New Hampshire state troopers were hired to assist with intermittent road closures during the filming.

"We had a short time to pull this together," said Matthew Newton, Film Specialist managing the New Hampshire Film and Television Office. "Our partners at various state agencies including the Division of Parks, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Safety really came through and fulfilled all of the production's needs, despite the short notice. I've heard nothing but enthusiastic comments from the producers regarding New Hampshire's customer service."

The only glitch of the production was a significant snowfall in the North Country Monday morning. The storm, which dropped a few inches of snow around the White Mountains Region, halted production for several hours. The filming resumed on U.S. Route 2 once the sky and the roads cleared.

No date has been set for the airing of the commercial which was produced by Tight Films of Los Angeles and New York.

The New Hampshire Film and Television Office, as part of the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources, works to expand business activity and employment throughout the state by acting as a liaison between the film industry and an established network of government agencies, the state's film industry workforce, and local property owners. The office is responsible for location assistance, public relations, and general production support in an effort to broaden the cultural and economic impact of film and television production in the state. For more information about film and television production in New Hampshire, call (603) 271-2220 or visit www.nh.gov/film.

AREA LIBRARIES PARTNER WITH LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR WEEKLY COLUMN

by Jack Robillard, Assistant Director
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(603) 432-6140 · www.derry.lib.nh.us/

When Marc Fortier took over as editor of the *Derry News* recently, he contacted area libraries to gauge their interest in submitting a weekly column about new materials and upcoming events at their respective libraries on a rotating basis. Librarians at the Derry Public Library, Taylor Library in East Derry, Londonderry's Leach Library, and the Chester Library were quick to respond with an enthusiastic, "Yes!"

"In this day and age, when libraries are eager to spread the word about the library's role in the community and the wide range of materials, formats, activities, and services available, it was great to have a local newspaper editor contact us to get the word out," says Jack Robillard, Assistant Director at the Derry Public Library. "When Marc called he mentioned that the 'Books' page is the first section he turns to when reading a newspaper and he was eager to enlist the talents of local librarians to publicize what's new at their libraries, what's popular among the patrons, and a listing of upcoming events."

Inaugural columns in December were submitted by Kendall Curtis, a public services librarian at Londonderry's Leach Library, writing about the broad range of settings and characters in the mystery novel genre. Melissa Rossetti, Director of the Chester Public Library, wrote about materials being available in many different formats from CD's to MP3's, and from books to DVD's film adaptations. Jack Robillard, Assistant Director at the Derry Public Library, took readers on a tour of the new books section, nonfiction shelf. And Linda Merrill, Director of the Taylor Library in East Derry, reported on her favorite books of the holiday season.

The column will appear each Wednesday in the *Derry News* with each library highlighted on a rotating basis.

GETTING THE WORDS OUT: NASHUA RECEIVES STORYTELLER RECORDINGS

by Carol Luers Eyman
Outreach & Community Services Coordinator
Nashua Public Library
(603) 589-4600 · www.nashualibrary.org/npl_home.shtml

The League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling (LANES) recently donated a large audiostory collection to the Nashua Public Library.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, LANES is donating these collections to selected public libraries throughout the region. This project, *Get The Words Out*, was created to honor the ongoing collaboration between storytellers and libraries as well as the support libraries have shown the storytelling community throughout New England.

The collection of CDs and cassette tapes contains the work of more than 50 regional storytellers and is diverse in both style and content. The recordings are also available to customers of other libraries through inter-library loan.

ZORRO IS ONE CITY, ONE BOOK CHOICE

At the December 12th aldermanic meeting in Nashua, Mayor Bernard Streeter announced that the title selected for the 2007 *Nashua Reads: One City, One Book* program is *Zorro* by Isabel Allende.

"I'm sure you'll enjoy this swashbuckling adventure story that reveals how Diego de la Vega became the masked man we all know so well," the Mayor said during his remarks.

Among the programs planned are book discussions at the Nashua Public Library and local bookstores, a demonstration by students from Amoskeag Fencing Center, screenings of film versions of *Zorro*, a lecture on Spanish history, and a blog on the library's website where readers can discuss the book. These will take place in the spring of 2007.

WOMAN SHELVES HER LONG CAREER AT KIMBALL LIBRARY

*Reprinted with Permission
by Meghan Carey, Staff Writer
Eagle-Tribune*

www.eagletribune.com/
submitted by Katie McDonough, Director
Kimball Library, Atkinson
(603) 362-5234 · www.kimballlibrary.com/

Betty Rollins laughed when she answered the phone at Kimball Library Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm sorry, I didn't get your e-mail," she said. "I never bother with it."

In fact, with the growing complexity of technology in the library field, Rollins decided it's time to retire after 30 years of both volunteer and paid service.

For one year less than the Kimball Library has been standing, Rollins has been a part of its family. She and her husband attended the building's grand opening in 1976 to get to know the town they had just retired to from Swampscott, MA.

"It was so popular that we were the only people who came to the opening," Rollins said.

That was 30 years ago. Voters last year rejected building a new library.

"If they don't use it, they don't want it," Rollins said, referring to her quarrel with residents who don't use the library and, therefore, voted against the new building.

In 1977, after visiting the library to check out books and seeing friends there volunteering, she decided to sign up.

In the fall of 1993, Rollins' husband became ill. The librarians offered to add her to their work force to get her out of the house more. Although she refused because she wanted to stay home with her husband, shortly after he died, she approached them about their offer.

"It helped me get through that time," she said. "But I never worked more than two says a week. I'm much too busy for that."

So, for the past 13 years, she continued her duties as a library aide. Rollins, who is in her 80s, but chose not to specify her age, worked Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The rest of her week is filled with book club meetings, the Atkinson Garden Club and a social life.

"All female, of course," she said. She doesn't foresee any changes coming in her retired life. Her two sons and four grand children are grown and spread from Cape Cod to California, but she plans to stay in Atkinson. There's something about a small town that she's come to love, she said.

And there's also a part of the small town that's come to love her.

"I think we all look up to you on how to be," fellow library aide Linda Bourassa told her. "You're a very classy lady."

Although tomorrow is her final day of work, Rollins will still be in and out of the building. She's been enlisted in an unofficial capacity to continue watering the plants once a week and to catch up with "the girls." And, of course, she'll need to rotate her collection of books, as she still plans to read 60 to 80 a year.

"Oh, heavens!" Rollins said, "I have so many favorites I couldn't tell you one."

But some mysteries and historical novels will definitely be on her check-out list. And her personal wish list will still include a new library.



**CENTER FOR THE BOOK AT THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY**

by Mary Russell, Director
NH State Library

(603) 271-2866 · www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/index.html

New Hampshire children from preschoolers to those in third grade selected *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont and illustrated by David Catrow, published by Harcourt, Inc., as the winner of the 2006 Ladybug Picture Book Award. With 17,027 children casting ballots for their favorite picture book from among 10 titles, *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* won with 3,553 votes. We had more votes this year, from more different schools and libraries, than we have ever had before. Thank you to everyone who makes the Ladybug Picture Book Award a part of their November!

We were able to announce the winner this year only two days after the ballot deadline through our new blog. As the Director of the N.H. Center for the Book, I get all sorts of interesting information sent to me - announcements of new books, invitations to author talks and book signings, links to web sites about books, press releases about book-related events around the country, and some just odd bits of vaguely book-related information. Putting this type of information on the Center for the Book website didn't really seem appropriate because it is not about programs of the Center and I wouldn't want there to be so much stuff on our website that our own programs and projects would get buried. So I decided to try out a blog as a way to share some of this information, as well as updates on Center activities, with anyone who might be interested. Bobbi Slossar here at the State Library, helped me figure out the technical issues involved in creating the blog and the RSS feeds (which seems a little scary but were really quite easy to set up). I posted my first message on November 16th and have added something new every few days since then. I hope you will take a few minutes to check out the blog at <http://nhbookcenter.blogspot.org> and let me know what you think, either by commenting on a specific posting or sending me an e-mail (mrussell@library.state.nh.us).

Those of you who are regular readers of our printed newsletter, *Book Notes* should not be concerned that we are planning to replace the publication with the blog. I just like the sound of the name so I used it again. In fact, we are working on plans to expand distribution of *Book Notes* in the coming year.

MAN SEEKING TO DONATE \$100K FOR TOWN'S LIBRARIES

State Says Trustees Must Be Elected

*Reprinted with Permission
by Gary E. Lindsley, Staff Writer
The Caldeonian-Record Online Edition
www.caledonianrecord.com*

A Woodsville man's desire to give a huge chunk of money to the town for improved library services has raised questions about whether the town's four community libraries are being operated in a legal manner.

When Robert G. Fillion approached Haverhill's selectmen recently about possibly donating some money to the town's libraries, they did not know what to do.

Fillion, who was born in Manchester, N.H., and raised in Haverhill, said he may be willing to give a minimum of \$100,000 to improve library services for residents in the town of Haverhill.

The town's board of selectmen on November 27th, did not immediately decide what to do about his offer.

"One thing I noticed is we don't have good libraries in town," Fillion told the selectman. "Therefore, I wanted to see if I could change that. I am [nearly] 80 years old and I am not going to live that many years longer, I am proposing the town have a library it can control."

One of the four libraries in town, the Woodsville Free Library, has an elected board of trustees, despite Fillion's belief that none of them do. He also believes they are not operated like public libraries.

"They don't act like they have the public's interest at heart," Fillion said. "So, I am saying right now, I have \$100,000 I want to donate. I also have a \$230,000 annuity fund. I also have another \$100,000 annuity fund. I am not at this point saying I am going to donate \$100,000."

His proposed donation comes with conditions which must be met first.

"I am proposing the select board set up a planning committee to deal with this," Fillion said.

Chairwoman Lynn Wheeler said Fillion's proposal will be placed on the agenda for the board's next meeting. She also thanked him for his generous offer.

Fillion is also requiring, as a condition of his possible donation, the select board have some control over the library facility. He said the town currently does not have any control over any of the Haverhill community libraries, which are in Woodsville, North Haverhill, Haverhill Corner and Pike. The libraries are the Patten-North Haverhill Library, the Woodsville Free Library, the Haverhill Library Association and the Pike Library Association.

"Because currently the Haverhill libraries lack space, money, skills or willingness to provide the quality of services that we find in most town's of Haverhill's size," Fillion said, "The town's library situation becomes more and more intolerable in a rapidly changing world where the place of libraries is on the verge of great change, and competent officials have no say in the management of the libraries."

Just up the road, he said, Littleton has a very efficient library with excellent services. He even suggested Haverhill library officials take a trip to Littleton to see how it is run and what services are provided. But he said he was ignored.

Fillion is publisher of Haverhill Heritage Books and is retired from the U.S. Department of Education.

At his home on Wednesday, Fillion said Haverhill Town Manager Glenn English had told him the libraries are not part of the town.

"I disagree," Fillion said. "It's terrible, the worst condition of any libraries anywhere. Part of it is attitude and the other part is money. If you go into the Woodsville library, it is absolutely the worst. Half of the space in the library is devoted to spreading books on tables. They need more space."

Fillion also said the libraries' trustees hold secret meetings that are not open to the public.

"They had one Monday night and I found out about it," he said. "They said it was not a public meeting."

Frances Krauss, chairman of the Woodsville library's board of trustees, said they met with Fillion in November. Then, they did have another meeting to discuss Fillion's proposal to provide the library with a \$500 grant to have books about local history printed.

Krauss said Fillion found out about the meeting the day it was supposed to be held. She told him they wanted to discuss his proposal instead of having to wait until the next official meeting in January. And they wanted to discuss it among themselves.

As for whether it should be open to the public, Krauss said she does not know what the library's by-laws say.

"We are all volunteers," she said. "People are not lining up at the door to be on the library board. We don't know if he is for real. We don't know if he has the money."

Additionally, Krauss does not believe that any of the four communities in the town want to lose their local library.

"We have elderly people who like to walk to the library," she said. "His plan is he wants to see all of his [collection of books] kept in one location. We don't have the space for it. No one on the board wants a centralized public library."

Krauss also thinks Fillion is very offensive because of the conditions he wants to attach to the money.

In talking about Woodsville librarian Dawn Langley, Krauss said, "She is wonderful and she is computer literate. She is working with a tiny budget."

While each library has its own board of trustees, there is also a fifth board that is elected by all residents in the town. That board consists of three members, Susan Brown, Marilyn Spooner, and Eleanor Ingbreton.

"We have no idea what they do," English said.

Every year, the town "donates" a total of \$40,000 for the four libraries. The money is a line item in the town's budget.

English believes the issues regarding the town's libraries include how often they are open, how they buy their books and how the money is used.

"You have four libraries married to their buildings," he said. "Should the issue be buildings or library services? Do we really need four?"

The four community libraries, he said, were created at a time when transportation was not readily available.

English said he has been in contact with officials at the New Hampshire State Library. He spoke with Thomas Ladd, an education librarian II in the Library Development Services Section.

"He told me we have a unique situation," English said. He said [the libraries] all filed with the state as municipal libraries."

Ladd was not available Friday, but his supervisor, Susan Palmatier, said she was familiar with the situation in Haverhill. She said the state has extensive library laws, including requiring library boards of trustees to be elected by community residents.

She also said it depends on how the libraries in Haverhill were formed in the first place.

"If they were formed by the town, [trustees] have to be elected," Palmatier said. "If privately [formed], and they do receive public money, they have to have one publicly elected trustee."

Although state library officials are looking into the matter, Palmatier said, they cannot officially do anything unless someone in authority in the town asks the state to step in.

"We have not been asked in by any authority or any trustee," she said. "We might talk to the state [attorney general] and state librarian first."

Palmatier said in her 31 years of services at the New Hampshire State Library, she has never encountered a similar situation.

"It's kind of odd," she said.

Regarding the Woodsville library trustees, Palmatier said the meetings must be public.

"I hate to see public appearing bodies not open to the public," she said.

As for Fillion, he is waiting for his proposed minimum offer of \$100,000 to be discussed at the next town selectman's meeting.

"I would like to see a committee set up and I would like to see central services set up," Fillion said. "I am not going to deal with trustees not elected by the voters. I want to do this while I am still sane."

NEW ARTS IN HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE IS ALIVE AND WELL!!

by N.H. Division of Art
Department of Cultural Resources
(603) 271-2789 · www.nh.gov/nharts

The State Arts Council has posted new grant guidelines for the new Arts in Health Care Project grant and an Online Artist Directory to its website with a January 18th deadline. Grant funding is being made available as part of a new Arts in Health Care Initiative that the State Arts Council has helped to develop region-wide with various partners. The grant's goal is to support programs that bring experienced professional artists to work with populations in health care and nursing home facilities around the state.

The Arts in Health Care Project grant supports participatory arts programs for caregivers, staff, hospital patients and residents in nursing homes, hospice settings, and rehabilitation centers. For more information about this grant plus a directory of professional artists who are experienced in working in health care and/or nursing home facilities, visit: www.nh.gov/nharts. For more information contact Judy Rigmont, Community Arts Coordinator, at judy.l.rigmont@dcr.nh.gov or call (603) 271-0794.

STATE LIBRARY EXHIBIT OF LIFETIME FELLOWS ACQUISITIONS

New Hampshire Inspired: A New Hampshire Collection

The State Arts Council announces its exhibition *New Hampshire Inspired: A New Hampshire Collection*. The exhibition, which will run from January 18th through February 23rd at the State Library, features artworks by New Hampshire artists who have been designated Lifetime Fellow status. Lifetime Fellows are professional New Hampshire artists who have been awarded three State Arts Council Fellowships for artistic excellence and professional commitment in their lifetime. So far, 10 New Hampshire artists in the performing, media, and visual arts have achieved this distinction.

The following selected artworks will be on view as part of the exhibition beginning January 18th at the State Library:

- ▶ *Marshland Grasses and Trees* by Carol Aronson-Shore of Portsmouth
- ▶ *Angel Dog* by Jon Brooks of New Boston
- ▶ *Still Life* with Parrot Tulips by James Aponovich of Hancock
- ▶ Stone sculpture by Gary Haven Smith of Northwood

The four newly acquired artworks will become part of the State Arts Council's Art Bank collection. These artworks will find homes with state agencies through the "Adopt an Artwork" application process. Any state agency that occupies a state-owned building may apply.

2007 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Postmark Deadline: April 20, 2007

Do you know of an organization, an individual, a school or town that has made outstanding contributions to the arts in New Hampshire? You can nominate them for the *2007 Governors Arts Awards*.

The N.H. State Council on the Arts has issued a call for nominations for the *2007 Governors Arts Awards*. The honorary awards recognize outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in New Hampshire. Every other year, seven awardees in New Hampshire attain the highest arts honors that are given by the State.

In order to be eligible, individual nominees must be New Hampshire residents or have made significant contributions to the arts while they were residents of the state, and not have previously received a Governors Arts Award. Organizational nominees must be physically located in New Hampshire.

Governor John Lynch will announce the recipients of the Governors Arts Awards in October 2007. All nominees will be recognized.

UPCOMING N.H. STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS GRANTS DEADLINES

More information about the following grants, including guidelines and application forms may be found online at www.nh.gov/nharts. The State Arts Council offers arts funding for libraries, individuals, arts and non-arts organizations, schools, and branches of government. Please read guidelines to determine eligibility.

January 2, 2007	American Masterpieces: N.H. Inspirations Mini Grants Artist Opportunity Grant
February 2, 2007	AIE Leadership Project Grant Artist residency in Schools Grant
February 20, 2007	FY08 Two-Year Operating Grant for Arts Organizations
March 5, 2007	Organizational Support Project Grant Community Arts Project Grant Traditional Arts Project Grant
March 19, 2007	Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant
March 30, 2007	Cultural Conservation Grant Cultural Facilities Grant

JAMES PATRICK KELLY, NH AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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by Darcy Coffa
Rochester Public Library
(603) 332-1429 · www.rpl.lib.nh.us

On Thursday, January 25th, 2007, New Hampshire science fiction author will be reading from his latest novel *Burn* at the Rochester Public Library. Sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC), Rochester Public Library will be hosting a yearlong series of science fiction/fantasy book discussions, which will be facilitated by NHHC area scholars. The new series, *Speculate: a new past, a different present, an out-of-this-world future* will begin with Jim Kelly's reading on January 25th and continue throughout the rest of 2007.

Jim Kelly graduated from Notre Dame in 1972 and published his first story in 1975. He is a two-time recipient of the Hugo Award, one of the highest honors in science fiction writing. His short stories have won the Asimov's Reader's Poll, the Science Fiction Chronicle Award and other writing honors. Learn more about Mr. Kelly on his website at www.jimkelly.net.

Kelly's novel *Burn* is about a colony of "true humans" that takes over a planet and renames it Walden. They set up a new society based on Thoreau's principles of voluntary simplicity. The world's inhabitants rebel by lighting themselves on fire (in a sacrifice akin to suicide bombers) to burn down Walden's woods. The High Gregory, a chid-ruler of a distant planet flies to troubled Walden to "make luck" and dramatic changes ensure.

Listen to James Patrick Kelly read from *Burn* and discuss his inspiration. Mr. Kelly will be at the Rochester Public Library on Thursday, January 25th, 2007. His reading will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will take place in the community room located on level two. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required and refreshments will be served. Handicap parking and accessibility is available. For more information please call (603) 335-7550 or visit www.rpl.lib.nh.us. The Rochester Public Library is located at 65 South Main Street in Rochester, N.H.

NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE UNVEILS THE DTB PROTOTYPE

by John Barrett, Supervisor
Talking Book Section
NH State Library
(603) 271-1498 · 1-800-491-4200
www.nh.gov/nhsl/talking_books/

A revolutionary change is coming to the Talking Book Program. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress is near completion of developing a new digital talking book (DTB) player and cartridge to distribute to its network libraries and eligible persons registered in the 75 year-old service.

What is new about the player? It is significantly smaller and lighter than the current audio cassette player. The player is about 6 x 9 x 2 inches. It is approximately 200 cubic inches smaller in size and five pounds lighter. That's about 1/2 of the standard model used today. The body of the new player creates maximum visual contrast between the background of the case and the colors of the buttons.

Controls or keys on the player give audible feedback about how far ahead or back the user is moving, or telling the user if s/he is setting the tone higher or lower, the speed faster or slower. Other controls make similar announcements. The DTB player also includes a crescent moon shape Sleep button that will turn the player off 30 minutes after it is pressed. An advanced model will offer additional controls for setting and retrieving book-marks.

There is a pull-out handle in front and a compartment on the back side of the machine for storing the power cord. The door to the battery compartment is on the bottom of the player and there are two inset bars for attaching a carry strap to allow for portability. There is also a headphone jack on the side of the player. The new machine has no moving parts other than the controls which should provide longer battery life and more reliability.

The cartridge is the size of a cassette, but with the more complex shape. At one end of the cartridge is a round finger hole and at the other end a USB connector. Inside is a flash memory card containing the content of the DTB. Above the pull out handle in the front of the player is the opening for the digital talking book cartridge. The cartridge will fit only one way and slide smoothly into the player.

There will not be enough of the new DTB players to distribute to all our eligible registered users in the first year that the machines are made available. We will therefore continue to circulate audiocassette books and cassette players for some time. For more information call the Talking Book Services Section of the N.H. State Library at 1-800-491-4200.

NHAIS NOTES BLOG

by Charles LeBlanc, Supervisor
NHAIS Services Section
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(603) 271-2310 · www.nh.gov/nhsl/nhais

As you are by now aware, there is a new kid on the block: The NHAIS Notes Blog. A link to this blog (<http://nhais.blogspot.com>) may be found under the subheading Web Links on the ABOUT NHAIS tab of NHU-PAC. The NHAIS communication process has always seemed to me a bit slow and too dependent on others. For the longest time I attributed the lack of a better process to my shy and humble nature, but that excuse is just that, an excuse. The next excuse for not reaching NHAIS users quickly was that available technology was too cumbersome, slow, and controlled by others. Well, this second excuse, in addition to being an excuse, has fallen by the wayside with the advent of blogs. The primary reason I see for using a blog is the flexibility and speed of communicating NHAIS and NHU-PAC issues to you. From our side of the blog, we are not hampered by the need to find the person who can change an official web page, nor do we have to worry about spam.

A secondary reason for the blog is that it does not run on any of the State's equipment. When, in the past, there have been major outages and disruptions to users, especially with the listserv computers, we have had no way to let our users know what was going on. This problem has been eliminated by using Beta Blogger, a commercially available blog service. This I hope will result in uninterrupted communication lines between us.

From the recipients' side, after the initial subscription, one never needs to go to the blog again, unless one so chooses. This makes the process of reading the blog as simple as reading e-mail. The subscription process is flexible. You can sign-up for messages as a daily digest (the drawbacks with this approach is that you could miss timely system update information); as e-mail each time a new post is added to the blog; or as an RSS or Atom feed. The choice is yours! Naturally you can bookmark the blog and visit it anytime you wish. In fact, if you want to you can bookmark a particular topic, like "Bobbi's Tech Tips" and then you can go directly to what has been posted on that specific topic. The live feeds from other New Hampshire library blogs are a feature that you will only get by visiting the actual site now and then, so you may want to click through from an e-mailed posting now and then to see these feeds. Again, the ball is in your court, you can play either way.

Communication in the other direction, from you to us is, I think, simple with the blog. There is a live e-mail link to the NHAIS Help Desk at the very bottom of the blog. All that is needed is a simple click on the address and your e-mail client will take care of presenting you with a blank e-mail message with the "to" address in place. If you have suggestions about improving the blog, please send them to Mary Russell. Her e-mail address is listed at the top of the blog.

The NHAIS Notes Blog is a means to improve communication while at the same time keeping the process as simple and efficient to use as possible. I hope you will take advantage of this new process because it's cool Web 2.0 technology, and from my point of view a simple, efficient, and easy way to keep apprised of NHAIS issues.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

NEWS FROM

Barrington Public Library - The Isinglass Teen Award for 2005-2006 was recently awarded to Sonya Sones, at a presentation at the Barrington Middle School, for her book "one of those hideous books where the mother dies". Ms. Sones talked to the students about how she became a writer for youth, and read from some of her works. The Isinglass Award is now taking nominations for the 2007 list; simply send titles recommended by 7th and 8th grade students to blibrary@metrocast.net and include title, author, and year published. The committee prefers titles published within the past 3 years. Voting for the 2006-2007 winner will take place in the spring. All communities in New Hampshire may vote!

*Amy Inglis, Director
Barrington Public Library*

Sanbornton Public Library - The Sanbornton Public Library is honored to announce a generous donation made to the children's library collection by the family of Academic Librarian Vincent M. Livoti. Vincent is the middle of five children, raised by Robert and Betty Jane Livoti of Plumber Shores.

"My family has lived in Sanbornton for more than 30 years. The library helped shape my understanding of the world... The goal of this collection was to supply an array of inclusive materials to help prepare our community's children for an increasingly cosmopolitan world," stated Vincent, a Doctoral Candidate at the Union Institute, Vermont College who collects and teaches K-12 resources for a university in Cambridge, MA.

The Livoti Family Children's Media Collection consists of hand-selected items in a variety of formats - including books, magazines, DVD, VHS, CD-ROM, Learning Objects, Art, and Plants. All the items, over 500 to date, were chosen with the aim of enriching the community's public resources. The family's contributions will continue over the next several years.

The library staff was overwhelmed by the family's generosity. "The whole family arrived and unloaded box after box of beautiful new children's materials," reported Chris Finer, the library's former Director.

The Sanbornton Library's new children's room is part of the major renovation project that includes a two-story addition to the historic Woodman Academy on Meetinghouse Hill. "The timing of this gift is truly auspicious," said Finer. "Just as we completed the children's room, we received all these wonderful new books to put into it."

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Cab Vinton, Interim Library Director*

**State of New Hampshire
Department of Cultural Resources**

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HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

-- Editorial Policy --

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darlene@library.state.nh.us.

Subscriptions are free and when subscribers change their addresses they should notify Darlene Reinhard at the State Library.

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